

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendments to the specification and claims and the remarks presented herein.

The claims in the application are claims 1, 3 to 6 and 10 to 12, all other claims being cancelled.

The specification has been amended to remove reference to the claims and to provide headings. Claims 4, 10 and 12 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner and all the claims have been amended to conform to the American practice.

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by the Nishimura et al patent and claims 2, 7 to 9 and 12 have been rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious from Nishimura et al. Claims 3 to 6 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious for Nishimura et al taken in view of Murata et al or Ise and claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious from Nishimura et al taken in view of Greby patent. The Examiner states that Nishimura et al discloses a roller screw similar to Applicant with a spindle nut arranged on a threaded spindle and rollers arranged so that they can roll on a thread path delimited by thread grooves on the threaded spindle on the spindle nut and two equal pitches of the thread grooves are axially offset with respect to one another by a partial amount of the pitch.

Applicant traverses these grounds of rejection as amended claim 1 is a combination of claims 2, 7, 8 and 9, and claims 3 to 6 and 10 to 12 with editorial amendments are not anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited art. The Nishimura et al patent does not describe the relationship between the length of the rollers and the length of the thread flanks. The invention in detail describes the geometry of the rollers and the thread flanks and especially stresses the fact that the thread flanks are longer than the rollers to establish a space. The invention allows the application of a cage for the rollers, which would be impossible in Nishimura et al. Furthermore, the space – being created by the longer thread flanks and the shorter rollers can be formed as a lubrication reservoir.

The invention for the first time presents a solution how to provide a roller screw device which is able to include a lubrication reservoir and also to include a cage for the rollers, if required. If the man skilled in the art would have tried to provide space for a lubrication reservoir he could have provided grooves for lubricant within the thread flanks; however, this would not represent the invention. There is no hint in the prior art to arrange the geometry of the length of the rollers and the length of the thread flanks. But even if the man skilled in the art would have tried to make the thread flanks of the nut longer than the rollers, he would have dropped this idea since the nut in this case would collapse with the spindle. The same would apply if the thread flanks of spindle would be made longer than the rollers.

It was the invention which suggested to lengthen both the thread flanks of the nut and the thread flanks of the spindle and to make the rollers shorter than these thread

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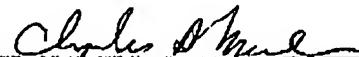
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flanks to create space. The man skilled in the art would not have considered to do something like the inventor has done, since this would have meant, that the roller screw device either would be bigger (since the thread flanges are longer) or could bear only less mechanical load capacity (since the rollers are shorter). However, the invention flows in the face of logic and accept those disadvantages aiming for a roller device which is better to lubricate and which could be provided with a cage for the rollers. Therefore, withdrawal of the prior art rejections is requested.

With respect to the drawings, Applicant is submitting a proposed Fig. 1 for the Examiner's consideration wherein "a" has been changed to --a--. However, with respect to the further objections of the Examiner, Applicant requests clarification since it is common usage to provide one part with more reference signs, if this part has two or more functions and is mentioned as a general part and also as a special designed part (e.g. "thread path 4", "first thread path 5", "second thread path 6", "thread flanks 13").

In view of the amendments to the specification and claims and the above remarks, it is believed that the claims point out Applicant's invention. Therefore, favorable reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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Enclosures